ENGLANDS INTEREST AND IMPROVEMENT.

Cam. d. 663. 1

Consisting in the increase of the store, and trade of this Kingdom;

BY

SAM. FORTREY *Esq.* one of the Gentlemen of his Majesties most Honourable Privy Chamber.

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To

The most High and mighty

MONARCH,

CHARLES the II.

BY

The grace of God King of Great Britain, France, *and* Ireland, *Defender of the faith*, &c.

May it please your most Excellent Majesty;

BEcause it is the duty of all your Subjects, to pay continually to your Majestie, all faithfull service, and whereas, most are desirous to express their forwardness, in such things especially, as they judge most pleasing, and acceptable to your Majesty; I have chosen this

ſubject; well knowing, that as becomes a moſt gracious King, your Majeſties greateſt delight, and chiefeſt care, is, to advance the welfare and happineſs of your people.

This indeed always hath, or at leaſt ought to have been the greateſt aim, and deſigne of all Princes, and thoſe that have with beſt ſucceſs, proceeded furtheſt therein, have deſervedly chronicled their names, with fame, to all poſterity.

The often experience I have already had of the exceſs of goodneſs, inherent in, and inſeparable from your Majeſty, hath encouraged me to this bold attempt, wherein, if I obtain onely your Majeſties pardon, and favourable protection, it is I am ſure the height of the ambition of

Your Majeſties moſt loyal, and faithfull ſervant, and ſubject,

SAMUEL FORTREY.

To

To the Reader.

PErceiving the genius, and diſpoſition of the times, to ſtudy more the Intereſt and Improvement of the nation, then uſually heretofore: I thought I might be excuſed, if amongſt others, I preſumed to ſhew my good will, towards the advancement of ſo worthy a deſigne.

I do not pretend to ſay any thing, that every ingenious perſon doth not already know; yet perhaps, what I ſay, may not prove unſerviceable to ſome, who have not had the leiſure to reflect ſo particularly upon this ſubject.; and if this my endeavour, prove but in the leaſt meaſure beneficial to any, I have attained to my end, and accompliſhed my deſigne.

Sam. Fortrey.

To the Reader.

Receiving the genius, and disposition of the times, to flatly more the nerves and improvement of the mercenary, especially before the simple be corrupted, if amongst others, I prefumed to shew my good will, towards the advancement of so worthy a design.

I do not presume to say any thing, that every ingenious person doth not already know; yet perhaps, what I say, may not prove unnecessary to some, who have not had the leisure to reflect so particularly upon this subject. And if this my endeavour, prove but in the least measure beneficial to any, I have answered to my end, and accomplished my design.

Sam. Torrey.

ENGLANDS INTEREST AND IMPROVEMENT.

ENGLANDS Intereſt and Improvement conſiſts chiefly in the increaſe of ſtore and trade.

Of ſtore and trade in general.

Store comprehendeth all ſuch commodities, as either the ſoil, or people of this nation are capable to produce, which are either uſefull at home, or valuable abroad.

Trade is the means, by which a nation may procure what they want from abroad, and vent to the beſt advantage, what ever may be ſpared of their own increaſe at home.

Of ſtore there are properly two ſorts, natural and artificial.

Our natural ſtore may alſo be divided into three parts.

Firſt the annual increaſe of the ſoil, which conſiſts chiefly in corn of all ſorts, and all the beſt ſorts of cattell.

Secondly, the product of our mines, of

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lead, tin, iron, coal, allum, and the like.

Thirdly, the great plenty of fish our seas naturally afford, of which we might reap unknown advantages, were our fishing trade rightly improved.

Our Artificial store consists in the manufacture and Industry of the people, of which the chiefest in this nation are the manufactures of woollen clothes, and all other sorts of woollen stuffs, linen cloth, silk, stuffs, ribbandings, stockings, laces, and the like.

In trade there may be likewise said to be two kinds.

The one trade at home, one with another; the other our trade, or traffick abroad with strangers.

And in each of these particulars, by the bounty of nature and divine providence, this nation doth not onely equal any neighbour-countrey, but far excels in all the most profitable advantages.

Of the trade of France.

France we know to be a nation, rich, populous and plentifull, and this onely by the increase of its own store, raised both by the fruit of the soil, and industry of the people, consisting in corn, wine, and many sorts of fruits, and great manufactures of all sorts of silks, linen-clothes, laces, and many other rich commodities, which do not onely store them at home, with what they need, but by the overplus pro-

vides for all things else, they necessarily want from abroad; with plenty of money to boot.

Holland hath not much of its own store, especially not answerable to supply the wants of that nation; and yet by their industrious diligence in trade, they are not onely furnished with whatsoever the world affords and they want, but by the profit of their trade they excel in plenty and riches, all their neighbour-nations. *Of the trade of Holland.*

Two things therefore appear to be chiefly necessary, to make a nation great, and powerfull; which is to be rich, and populous; and this nation enjoying together all those advantages, with part whereof onely, others grow great and flourishing; and withall, a Prince, who above all things delights and glories in his peoples happiness: this nation can expect no less then to become the most great, and flourishing of all others. *Riches and people necessary to increase the greatness and power of a nation.*

But private advantages are often impediments of publick profit; for in what any single person shall be a looser, there, endeavours will be made to hinder the publick gain, from whence proceeds the ill success that commonly attends the endeavours for publick good; for commonly it is but coldly prosecuted, because the benefit may possibly be something remote from them that promote it; but the mischief known and certain to them that oppose it, and *The prejudice private Interests often are to publick advantages.*

Intereſt more then reaſon commonly ſways moſt mens affections.

Whereby it may appear, how neceſſary it is that the publick profits ſhould be in a ſingle power to direct, whoſe Intereſt is onely the benefit of the whole.

How to increaſe the people of this nation.

The greateſt thing therefore that any Prince can aim at, is to make his dominions rich and populous, and by what means it may be effected in this nation, beyond all neighbour countreys, I ſhall endeavour to demonſtrate: People and plenty are commonly the begetters the one of the other, if rightly ordered.

And firſt to increaſe the people of this nation, permiſſion would be given to all people of foreign countreys, under ſuch reſtrictions as the ſtate ſhall think fit, freely to inhabit and reſide within this kingdom, with liberty to buy or ſell lands or goods, to import or export any commodities, with the like priviledge and freedom that *Engliſh* men have.

This would quickly increaſe the number of our people, and multiply our riches: for thoſe people that would come from other countreys to inhabit here, would alſo bring their riches with them, which if they laid out in the purchaſing of eſtates, or improvement of our trade, or were onely their perſons rightly employed, it might very much increaſe, both the riches and power of this nation.

But

But it may be demanded why we should expect that people should leave their own native countreys to come and inhabit here, when they enjoy already as many privileges as here are offered them. *Why forrainers desire to inhabit here.*

These reasons may be given,

First, that this countrey in it self is as pleasant, or more pleasant, healthfull, fruitfull and temperate then any other. *The first reason.*

Secondly, that our laws, government [illegible] disposition of the people I may say, are not [illegible]ly as good, but much better then any [illegible] for the ease, quiet, peace and security of [illegible] people;

Thirdly, if our trade and manufactures were but improved to that advantage, as they are capable of, there would be no countrey in the world, where industrious people might improve their estates, and grow more rich, then in this, and the hope of gain commonly bears so great a sway amongst men, that it is alone sufficient to prevail with most; *The third reason.*

Fourthly, this being the most eminent, and intire countrey of all others, that profess the Protestant Religion (which profession is very numerous in most of the other countreys of *Europe*, but many of them under constraint and danger, and the free liberty of mens consciences with security to their persons, being above all things most desireable) it cannot be doubted *The fourth reason.*

doubted, or denied (were thoſe impediments removed, that now may hinder) but we might be ſufficiently ſtored with wealthy and induſtrious people, from all parts of *Europe*.

Reaſons ſhewing the advantages the Prince of this nation hath, by preferring the Proteſtant Religion onely.

And were there not ſo many divine reaſons to prefer the Proteſtant Religion before all others, as being doubtleſs above all the moſt free from vain and ſuperſtitious beliefs and ceremonies, being the onely model of true piety and vertue, without thoſe allays of pretended evils, that ſome abound with; contriving murder, treaſon and miſchief, to advance their opinions, I ſay, if there were not theſe reaſons for it, but that the Proteſtant Religion wanted this unvaluable worth, to prefer it before others, and ſuppoſe it onely equal with the reſt; yet in humane prudence it is moſt eligible, and to be preferred by the Prince of this nation before all others.

The firſt reaſon.

Firſt, becauſe thereby, he remains the onely Supreme, under God, in theſe dominions; and controllable by none: whereby his power in government is much confirmed, and the peace of his people ſecured; when if it were otherwiſe (as in ſome it is) that mens conſciences were at the diſpoſe of others; who uſe their power onely to the advancement of their own wealth, pride and greatneſs; it cannot be avoided, but that the Princes Intereſt and theirs may often differ; which can never happen but to the

Princes

Princes great hazard, and peoples ruine; of which truth, there hath been already too many ſad examples in this kingdom; ſo as I conceive, there needs little more be ſaid to perſwade a Prince, to prefer his own peace, ſecurity and freedom, above the perſwaſions of any, that onely ſeek their own private Intereſt, and advantage.

Secondly, for the Prince of this nation, to profeſs the reformed Proteſtant Religion, is a matter of greateſt policy and prudence, for the advance of his own power and greatneſs: For as it is ſaid before, conſidering how deſireable the countrey is in it ſelf, and the onely chief in *Europe* of this profeſſion; and the hazardous and dangerous condition of thoſe in other countreys, and the power that the perſwaſions of mens conſciences have, to prevail with them, he may always be aſſured of this, that where any of this profeſſion in other countreys, ſhall happen to be perſecuted or injured, by a ſtronger party of a contrary belief, their refuge will certainly be to him, either to be received as his Subjects in his own countrey, or elſe to offer their ſervice to help him to become Lord of their own; or otherwiſe, if quarrels or differences ſhould happen to ariſe between this Prince and the Prince of any other neighbour countrey, if they ſhould make war upon him, he would be aſſured of friends abroad to help to *The ſecond reaſon.*

divert them, or if he ſhould finde it fitting to attach others, he cannot want confederates and aſſiſtants in the proſecution of his deſigne, eſpecially if there be any thing of pretence of Religion in the caſe: which is ſeldom wanting, where it is any ways ſerviceable to advance a deſigne.

But by the way it is to be obſerved, that as this may be of certain advantage to this Prince againſt others, ſo would it be of like miſchief to himſelf or worſe, ſhould he ſuffer the Intereſt of any other Prince to have the like advantage againſt him; and in this kinde there is but one profeſſion which is ſo conſiderable, either amongſt our ſelves at home, or in countreys abroad, that is worthy the taking notice of, and it is ſo Catholick as I ſhall not need to name it.

The danger for the Prince of this nation to tolerate any other Religion.

And though Chriſtians ought not to perſecute one another, and that onely for ſmall differences in opinion, when what is right or wrong for the moſt part remains a doubt and uncertain; whil'ſt the evils are onely certain that ſuch diſputes produce.

And as it may be truly ſaid, morality may be ſhort of true Religion, yet it is moſt certain, that no Religion can be pure that wants true morality; I ſhall onely therefore make this ſhort obſervation, That that Religion which ſhall endeavour to advance it ſelf by all immoral and wicked ways and means, muſt needs be

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in that particular much defective. And though this be commonly practiſed by moſt, yet certainly the danger is greater from that whoſe profeſt principle it is, then from ſuch others, who (though often guilty) yet wholly diſown it. And what Prince, or ſtate is likely to eſcape miſchief, or be ſecure; when opportunity is offered to thoſe, who by ties of conſcience are obliged to ruine it: and have Intereſt and ſubtilty enough to contrive the ſame? all which being rightly weighed and conſidered, it is evident, how perilous, and deſperate a thing it might prove, if it were onely on account of policie, and ſelf-preſervation, for a Prince to admit or countenance ſuch things, which have not the leaſt ſhew or appearance of good, or advantage; but in all likelihood, of moſt certain hazard and ruine, both to himſelf and State.

But granting what is ſaid to be true, yet what can be objected againſt the countenancing, or at leaſt toleration of all ſuch other ſorts of Chriſtian profeſſions, who pretend they have not the will, nor probably can have the power, to contrive or act any thing conſiderable to the damage, or diſquiet of the Prince or State.

It may be anſwered, that the toleration of all ſuch in it ſelf doth not appear altogether ſo dangerous to the Prince, or State: But if

the

nature of man be tightly conſidered, together with the common zeal in matters of Religion, you ſhall finde, that commonly things of the ſmalleſt conſequence make the greateſt differences, and as the ſame faith and belief, doth very much increaſe love and affection, ſo contrariwiſe difference in opinions, do onely beget and engender contempt, & animoſities towards one another; by which means the Prince ſhall at no time be either quiet, or ſecure. For ſhould the Prince ſuffer all indifferently, and not elect ſome one which ſhould always be countenanced, and maintained as the chief, and moſt univerſal profeſſion of his kingdom: the confuſions would be ſo great, and the Princes Intereſt ſo ſmall amongſt them, for want of any dependency on him; that a kingdom ſo divided againſt it ſelf, could not ſtand.

And on the other ſide, ſhould the Prince firſt ſettle a government in the Church, as it is at this day, and then give toleration to all others; the miſchievous conſequence would not be much leſs; for firſt, all ſuch as would withdraw, would not without grudging pay their dues to parſons, from whom they receive no recompence, nay rather, whom they contemn and hate.

Secondly, upon all invaſions from abroad, or rebellions at home, the Prince ſhall be ſure to have all ſuch for his enemies, as ſhall be ſo tolerated.

Firſt,

First, becauſe of their certain hatred to the preſent Church-government: by which they conceive, that they receive many injuries, and oppreſſions.

Secondly, in hope every one to advance their own party, could they remove the power in being; each imagining their own opinion as the moſt worthy, would firſt take place.

And laſtly, where ſuch advantages are offered, to ſtrengthen any diſcontented party, no Prince can hope, or expect to be long quiet or ſecure.

Theſe miſchiefs and inconveniences, having of long time been ſo obvious; it hath been thought by ſome, that a ſtrict uniformity in Church-government, is the onely means to prevent all the aforeſaid inconveniences.

What is chiefly regarded in ſettling a ſtrict uniformity.

I conceive it cannot well be denied, but then care would be taken, that what is ſo impoſed, be onely ſuch things as are barely neceſſary and ſuch as may agree beſt with the quiet and preſervation of the State. And in this alſo good regard would be had, to the moſt ſober way of the ſame profeſſion in other countreys; which would much advance the deſigne aforeſaid, and in all likelihood would preſerve the Princes power more entire, and his people in greater fidelity, love and peace.

But to return to the cauſe that firſt moved this diſcourſe, as a means to multiply people,

and

and enrich the kingdom, it may be objected;

Objections againſt the ways and means to multiply people.

First, that it doth not appear that people are wanting, but rather that we have already too many, if we conſider the number of poor people that are found in every place; and it might be prudence, firſt, to employ theſe, before we endeavour to multiply more.

Secondly, that to give the like liberty and priviledge to foreiners, that *Engliſh-men* have, might be a means to undo the natives; for foreiners by their Correſpondents abroad, and induſtry at home, will gain all the trade to themſelves, and alſo by purchaſing of eſtates, will make our land much the dearer.

The Objections anſwered.

It is anſwered firſt, it is true conſidering our preſent condition, how trade is decayed, and the little encouragement people have to induſtry we have already more people then are well employed; but I conceive, it is ſo much the greater damage to the Prince, to have his people both few and poor; but if the manufactures and other profitable employments of this nation, were rightly improved and encouraged, there is no doubt but the people, and riches of the kingdom might be greatly increaſed and multiplied, both to the profit, and honour of the Prince.

Secondly, that any *Engliſh-man*, of the like ingenuity as a ſtranger, will have the like advantage of trade, as any ſtranger can have, as

to

to the exportation or importation of any commodities, for they may have their correſpondents abroad as well as the other, yet ſuppoſe they could not, it would be no damage to the kingdom, but an advantage, if the Subjects by this means be more plentifully and cheaply provided with all forein commodities, and may gain a better price, and vent for their own, and the number and Intereſts that can pretend to ſuffer hereby, are ſo few, and inconſiderable, that it bears no proportion with the advantage.

And further, by this liberty to foreiners, we ſhould quickly attain to the perfection of thoſe manufactures, which now we ſo highly value and purchaſe ſo dear from abroad: for many of the beſt Artiſts of other countreys, no doubt in ſhort time would be tranſported hither, perhaps no leſs to the benefit of this nation, then the like encouragement hath been in former times, by the improvement of our art of clothing; and by which practice the *Hollander* at this day reaps unknown advantages. And as for raiſing the price and value of our lands, or of any thing elſe that is our own; it is of ſo great an advantage, that it might be wiſhed, nothing were cheap amongſt us but onely money.

Of our natural ſtore.

But to proceed in order, and firſt of our natural ſtore, and annual increaſe of the ſoil, the annual profit and increaſe of the ſoil of this kingdom,

kingdom, conſiſts chiefly in corn of all ſorts, flax, hemp, hops, wooll, and many more ſuch like; and alſo the beſt ſorts of cattel, as bullocks, horſe and ſheep, and the greater our increaſe is of any of theſe commodities, the richer may we be; for money, and all forein commodities that come hither, are onely bought by the exchange of our own commodities, wherefore by how much our own ſtore doth exceed thoſe neceſſaries we want from abroad, by ſo much will the plenty of money be increaſed amongſt us.

Thoſe things to be chiefly increaſed that are raiſed at leaſt charge, and are of greateſt valne abroad.

Our care ſhould therefore be, to increaſe chiefly thoſe things which are of leaſt charge at home, and greateſt value abroad; and cattel may be of far greater advantage to us, then corn can be, if we might make the beſt profit of them: for that the profit we can make of any corn by exportation, is much hindred by the plenty that neighbour countreys afford of that commodity, as good or better then we have any. Wherefore, could we employ our lands to any thing of more worth, we could not want plenty of corn, though we had none of our own; for what we ſhould increaſe in the room of it of greater value by exportation, would not onely bring us home as much corn as that land would have yeelded, but plenty of money to boot.

Of cattel, the moſt conſiderable are horſe, ſheep,

sheep, and bullocks, in all which we do not onely excel in goodneſs all other countreys, whereby we can vent the profits of them at far greater rates, but we may alſo by our ſingular advantage, in the increaſe of thoſe cattel, have the ſole trade, being able ſo far to exceed our own wants, as to furniſh all our neighbours, who muſt be forced to good rates, no other countrey affording the like for goodneſs, or ſcarce ſufficient for their own uſe.

And might we freely have the liberty to export them, or ſo much of them as may be fitting, we ſhould need no laws to hinder the exportation of corn; for we ſhould finde thereby a profit, ſo far exceeding that which might be raiſed out of every acre, that we might better afford to give a far greater price to buy it, then we can now ſell it for. For the profit of one acre of paſture, in the fleſh, hide and tallow of an ox; or in the fleſh, wooll and tallow of a ſheep; or in the carcaſe of a horſe, is of ſo much greater value abroad, then the like yeeld of the earth would be in corn; that the exportations of this nation might be at leaſt double to what it is, if rightly diſpoſed. Wherefore it is to be wiſhed, that the Supreme power would ſo far tender the publick good, in which it is ſo much concerned, as to remove all impediments, and promote all endeavours, which tend to ſo great and publick an advantage.

The

The impediments of this Improvement.

The greateſt impediments in this Improvement are chiefly theſe.

Firſt men cannot make the beſt of their own lands.

Secondly, when they have; they cannot ſell the increaſe of it to the beſt advantage. And theſe may be thus amended.

How to remove them, and firſt by incloſure.

The damage that happens for want of incloſure.

Firſt, by a liberty for every man to enjoy his lands in ſeveralty and incloſure; one of the greateſt Improvements this nation is capable of; for want whereof, we finde by daily experience, that the profit of a great part of the land and ſtock in this kingdom, as now employed, is wholly loſt. And this appears, in that the land of the common fields, almoſt in all places of this nation, with all the advantages that belong unto them, will not let for above one third part ſo much, as the ſame land would do incloſed, and always ſeveral. And on the great commons, a houſe with commoning, will not let for one quarter ſo much, as it would do were its proportion ſeveral unto it. And all this by reaſon of the many ſeveral Intereſts: whence it is, that men cannot agree to employ it to its propereſt uſe, and beſt advantage: whereby much land is tilled with great labour, and ſmall profit; and much land fed, to the ſtarving of the cattel, and empoveriſhing the inhabitants; to the increaſe of nothing but beggery in this nation; all which inconveni-

conveniences, would by incloſure be prevented.

But it may be objected, that many other inconveniences would happen by incloſure; and chiefly, it would cauſe great depopulations and ſcarcity of corn, as hath been conceived by former Parliaments; which appears by their oppoſing, rather then advancing of it; upon this opinion, that incloſure would convert the land to paſture; one hundred acres of which, will ſcarce maintain a ſhepherd and his dog, which now maintains many families, employed in tillage; and by experience it is found, that many towns, which when their lands were in tillage had many families, now they are incloſed, have not ſo many inhabitants in them. *Objections againſt incloſures.*

To this I anſwer,

Firſt, that incloſures would not have been oppoſed, had it not appeared, that moſt landlords endeavoured it; which is a greater argument of Improvement; for did not the landlord ſuppoſe it would improve his land to a higher value; he would never have been perſwaded to do it; and the reaſon why it would have been of greater advantage to the landlord, is becauſe the tenant could make more profit of it, or elſe we ſhould not finde them ſo greedy after paſture, at ſo high a rate, when they may have arable enough for half the value; and this proves incloſure is profitable, *The objections anſwered.*

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ſince the ſame land is thereby raiſed to a far greater value.

Secondly, as for corn, it would be nothing the ſcarcer by incloſure, but the rather more plentifull, though a great deal leſs land were tilled: for then every ingenious husband would onely plow that land that he found moſt fitting for it, and that no longer then he found it able to bring him profit: ſo as he would out of one acre, raiſe more corn then in the common field can be raiſed of two, whereby one acre would be ſaved for other uſes, beſides the charges of mens and cattels labours; whereas in the common fields, where the tenant doth not plow, the profit of the land is loſt; whereby he is forced to a continual plowing, though to the ruine and damage both of the land, and of himſelf: ſo as that land, labour, and charge is loſt, which otherwiſe might be employed, to the profit and advantage of the kingdom.

Thirdly, as to depopulations by incloſures, granting it increaſeth plenty, as cannot well be denied, how increaſe and plenty can depopulate, cannot well be conceived: nor ſurely do any imagine that the people which lived in thoſe towns they call depopulated, were all deſtroyed, becauſe they lived no longer there; when indeed they were onely removed to other places, where they might better benefit themſelves, and profit the publick.

Certainly

Certainly they might as well think the nation undone, ſhould they obſerve how *London* is depopulated in a long vacation, when men are onely retired into the countrey, about their private and neceſſary employments; and the like might they think of the countrey in the Term time, yet a man is not thereby added, or diminiſhed to the nation.

Fourthly, as many or more families may be maintained and employed, in the manufacture of the wooll that may ariſe out of one hundred acres of paſture, then can be employed in a far greater quantity of arable; who perhaps do not always finde it moſt convenient for them to live, juſt on the place where the wooll groweth; by which means cities and great towns are peopled, nothing to the prejudice of the kingdom.

Wherefore then if by incloſure the land it ſelf is raiſed to a greater value, and a leſs quantity capable of a greater increaſe, and if really it cauſeth no depopulations, but at moſt a removal of people thence; where without benefit to the publick, or profit to themſelves, they laboured and toiled, to a more convenient habitation, where they might with leſs pains greatly advantage both: And if the manufactures and other profitable employments of this nation are increaſed, by adding thereto ſuch numbers of people, who formerly ſerved

onely to waſte, not to increaſe the ſtore of the nation, it cannot be denied, but the encouragement of incloſure, where every mans juſt right may be preſerved, would infinitely conduce to the increaſe and plenty of this nation, and is a thing very worthy the countenance and care of a Parliament.

Of our mines. In the next place, the product of our mines of lead, tin, iron, coals, allum; and the like may alſo be accounted amongſt the annual increaſe of the ſoil, and the product of theſe are onely obtained by the labour and induſtry of the people, and are very ſerviceable at home and profitable abroad; and therefore the increaſe of them doth very well deſerve all juſt encouragement.

Of our fiſhing trade. Laſtly, the great plenty of fiſh our ſeas naturally afford may be accounted amongſt our other annual increaſes, and the profit of theſe onely depend on peoples labour; and that in ſuch a kinde as it doth not onely increaſe the plenty and wealth of the kingdom, but alſo may be very ſerviceable to preſerve and increaſe the honour and ſafety of our nation, by increaſing our ſhipping; eſpecially if ſome courſe were taken to prevent others from robbing us of ſo great a treaſure, and therefore very worthy the publick care to maintain and encourage; but the concernment of this is already ſo well known to every one to be ſo great,

great, as it is not needfull to diſcourſe it further.

In the next place, our manufactures are to be conſidered, on which chiefly depends both the wealth and proſperity of this kingdom; for by the increaſe and encouragement thereof, the Subjects are employed in honeſt and induſtrious callings, maintained and preſerved from want, and thoſe miſchiefs which commonly attend idleneſs: the people furniſhed at home with all things both of neceſſity and pleaſure; and by the overplus procure from abroad, what ever for uſe or delight is wanting. *Of our manufactures.*

The chief manufactures amongſt us at this day, are onely woollen clothes, woollen ſtuffs of all ſorts, ſtockings, ribbandings, and perhaps ſome few ſilk ſtuffs, and ſome other ſmall things ſcarce worth the naming; and theſe already named ſo decayed and adulterated, that they are almoſt out of eſteem both at home and abroad. *Our manufactures very much decayed.*

And this, becauſe forein commodities are grown into ſo great eſteem amongſt us, as we wholly undervalue and neglect the uſe of our own, whereby that great expence of treaſure, that is yearly waſted in clothing, furnitures, and the like, redounds chiefly to the profit of ſtrangers, and to the ruine of his Majeſties Subjects. *The reaſons.*

And this will more plainly appear, if we exa-

mine the vaſt ſums of money the *French* yearly delude us of; either by ſuch commodities as we may as well have of our own, or elſe by ſuch others, as we might as well in great part be without: whereby no doubt our treaſure will be ſoon exhauſted, and the people ruined, as this particular may make appear, which not long ſince was delivered in to the King of *France*, upon a deſigne he had to have forbidden the trade between *France* and *England*; ſuppoſing the value of *Engliſh* commodities ſent into *France*, did ſurmount the value of thoſe that were tranſported hither.

A catalogue of French *commodities yearly tranſported into* England.

1. There is tranſported out of *France* into *England*, great quantities of velvets plain and wrought, ſattins plain and wrought, cloth of gold and ſilver, Armoyſins and other merchandiſes of ſilk, which are made at *Lions*, and are valued to be yearly worth one hundred and fiftie thouſand pounds.

2. In ſilk, ſtuffs, taffeties, poudeſoyes, armoyſins, clothes of gold and ſilver, tabbies, plain and wrought, ſilk-ribbands and other ſuch like ſilk ſtuffs as are made at *Tours*, valued to be worth above three hundred thouſand pounds by year.

3. In ſilk ribbands, gallowns, laces, and buttons of ſilk, which are made at *Paris*, *Roven*, *Chaimont*, S. *Eſtienes* in *Forreſts*, for about one hundred and fifty thouſand pounds by year.

4. A

4. A great quantity of ſerges, which are made at *Chalons*, *Chartres*, *Eſtamines* and *Rhemes*, and great quantities of ſerges made at *Amiens*, *Crevecoeur*, *Blicourt*, and other towns in *Picardy*, for above one hundred and fiftie thouſand pounds a year.

5. In bever, demicaſter and felt hats made in the city, and ſuburbs of *Paris*, beſides many others made at *Roven*, *Lions*, and other places, for about one hundred and twenty thouſand pounds a year.

6. In feathers, belts, girdles, hatbands, fans, hoods, masks, gilt and wrought looking-glaſſes, cabinets, watches, pictures, caſes, medals, tablets, bracelets and other ſuch like mercery ware, for above one hundred and fifty thouſand pounds a year.

7. In pins, needles, box-combs, tortoiſſhell combs, and ſuch like, for about twenty thouſand pounds a year.

8. In perfumed and trimmed gloves, that are made at *Paris*, *Roven*, *Vendoſme*, *Clermont* and other places, for about ten thouſand pounds a year.

9. In papers of all ſorts, which are made at *Auvergne*, *Poictou*, *Limoſin*, *Champaigne* and *Normandy*, for above one hundred thouſand pounds a year.

10. In all ſorts of iron-mongers wares that are made in *Forreſts*, *Auvergne* and other

places, for about fourty thouſand pounds a year.

11. In linen cloth that is made in *Britainy*, and *Normandy*, as well courſe as fine, there is tranſported into *England*, for above four hundred thouſand pounds a year.

12. In houſhold ſtuff, conſiſting of beds, matreſſes, coverlids, hangings, fringes of ſilk and other furnitures, for above one hundred thouſand pounds a year.

13. In wines from *Gaſcoigne*, *Nantois* and other places on the river of *Loyer*, and alſo from *Bourdeaux*, *Rochel*, *Nante*, *Roven* and other places, are tranſported into *England* for above ſix hundred thouſand pounds a year.

14. In aqua vitæ, ſider, vineger, verjuice, and ſuch like, for about one hundred thouſand pounds a year.

15. In ſaffron, caſtle ſope, honey, almonds, olives, capers, prunes and ſuch like, for about one hundred and fiftie thouſand pounds a year.

16. Beſides five or ſix hundred veſſels of ſalt, loaden at *Maron*, *Rochel*, *Bonage*, the iſle of *Oleron*, and iſle of *Rhee*, tranſported into *England*, and *Holland*, of a very great value. So as by this calculation, it doth appear, that the yearly value of ſuch commodities as are tranſported from *France* to *England*, amount to above ſix and twenty hundred thouſand pounds.

And

And the commodities exported out of *England* into *France*, conſiſting chiefly of woollen clothes, ſerges, knit ſtockings, lead, pewter, allum, coals, and all elſe, do not amount to above ten hundred thouſand pounds a year. By which it appears that our trade with *France*, is at leaſt ſixteen hundred thouſand pounds a year, clear loſt to this kingdom:

Whereby the King of *France*, finding it would prove to his loſs, to forbid the trade with *England*, ſoon laid aſide the deſigne; however raiſed the cuſtoms of ſome of our *Engliſh* commodities, by which means the vent of thoſe commodities is very much leſſened and hindred.

Hereby it may appear how inſenſibly our treaſure will be exhauſted, and the nation begger'd, whil'ſt we careleſly neglect our own Intereſt, and ſtrangers abroad are diligent to make their advantages by us.

Means to redreſs this miſchief.

But moſt of theſe evils would be eaſily prevented, if onely his Majeſty would be pleaſed to commend to his people, by his own example, the eſteem and value he hath of his own commodities, in which the greateſt Courtier may be as honourably clad, as in the beſt dreſs, *Paris*, or a *French* Taylour can put him in; beſides it ſeems to be more honourable for a King of *England*, rather to become a pattern to his own people, then to conform to the

humours and fancies of other nations, eſpecially when it is ſo much to his prejudice.

This alone, without further trouble, would be at leaſt ten hundred thouſand pounds a year, to the advantage of his people; for the Courtiers always endeavour to imitate the Prince, being deſirous to obtain his favour, which they can no way better do, then by approving his actions in being of like humour: and the Court being the copy that the Gentry ſtrive to write after, and the reſt of the people commonly follow; it appears of what great conſequence and advantage the good example of a Prince, is to the benefit of his people.

Expence in apparel to be countenanced under ſome reſtrictions.

And whereas it ſometimes hath been thought prudence in a Prince, to forbid and diſcountenance the exceſs of apparel in his Subjects; whereby many of the nobility themſelves have ruined their families, and moſt of the Gentry have been impoveriſhed; whereby the great expence, and waſte of treaſure in that vanity doth appear: yet I conceive, in a convenient manner it rather ought to be maintained, and encouraged, onely obſerving theſe rules.

Firſt, that the vanity of the expence do not depend on ſuch commodities, as have too much of the ſubſtance of gold, ſilver, or ſilk; whereby the publick treaſure is waſted and loſt.

Secondly, that we impoveriſh not our ſelves to

to enrich ſtrangers, by that unnatural vanity, in preferring forein commodities though worſe, before our own, that are better.

Thirdly, that the exceſs of this expence conſiſt chiefly in the art, manufacture and workmanſhip of the commodity made in our own countrey; whereby ingenuity would be encouraged, the people employed, and our treaſure kept at home, ſo as the Prince would be nothing damnified by the exceſs: for the ruine of one would raiſe as much another of his Subjects; and money would thereby be more moving, which would be a great encouragement, and ſatisfaction to the people.

To name the particulars of ſuch commodities as would hereby be increaſed, would be endleſs and needleſs, when in a word it is, whatever at preſent we purchaſe from abroad, which we might as well raiſe of our own at home. But ſome perhaps may ſay; that this would deſtroy our trade abroad, for many of our commodities are vented, by the exchange of them for other commodities we bring home in return.

I anſwer, it is no prejudice to loſe that trade, which is a loſs to keep; and if our importations of forein commodities be of far greater value then our own exportations, our treaſure muſt needs be waſted to even the balance; and ſo our own people remain idle and poor, for the

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vent of one thouſand pounds worth of commodities abroad, is of little advantage to the people, if thereby they are hindred of the vent of two thouſand at home.

The Intereſt of the Prince, to increaſe the manufactures and trade of his people.

Wherefore theſe particulars conſidered, it is evident of what great concernment it is to a Prince, to encourage and increaſe the trade, and manufacture of his own people. And ſo much concerning trade at home.

Concerning our trade abroad, and what is freely to be exported.

In the next place concerning our trade abroad with ſtrangers, and this would alſo be encouraged, and increaſed by all means poſſible, and when any commodity is raiſed to the greateſt height it is capable of, it ſhould be free for exportation, under ſo reaſonable cuſtoms, that the Merchant may afford his commoditie abroad, as cheap as others, or elſe he would not be able to vent it.

What freely to be imported.

Secondly, all forein commodities that are uſefull, to improve our own manufactures and trade abroad, and cannot be raiſed here, ſhould be brought to us under eaſie cuſtoms, the better to enable us at an eaſie exchange, to vent our commodities abroad.

what to be hindred and prevented.

Thirdly, all forein commodities whatſoever, that are onely uſefull to be ſpent within the nation, and that have already all their perfection, as fruits, ſugars, wines, linen cloth, laces, ſilks, and what elſe can receive no addition here, and are not to be again tranſported; ſuch commodities

dities ſhould pay extraordinary cuſtoms, but ſhould not be forbidden to be brought in: For by this means, theſe commodities will be ſo dear to the people, that it will much wean them from ſo laviſh an uſe of them, as might otherwiſe be, and for ſuch things as we are capable to raiſe, it will much increaſe it of our own; whereby the State will raiſe a good revenue, and the countrey ſave their wealth, that would be waſtfully ſpent abroad, and ſo increaſe our own manufactures at home.

Fourthly, the increaſe of our land in any kinde (except ſheep alive and mares) that have already all the perfection that we can add unto them ſhould be free for exportation, under reaſonable cuſtoms; and of all things this nation is capable to raiſe, there is not any one of ſo great profit, as the exportation of horſes, which of all commodities is of leaſt charge to be raiſed at home, and of greateſt value abroad. But to this may be many objections.

The exportation of horſes of greateſt advantage.

Objections.

Firſt, that it will make horſes dear.

Secondly, that the exportation of ſtone-horſes may be prejudicial, by furniſhing others with our breed.

Beſides, it may enable our enemies who may invade us, and we ſhall alſo weaken our ſelves by ſending away our beſt horſes; with other ſuch like objections.

But to theſe it is anſwered,

Firſt,

The objections anſwered.

Firſt, as for the dearneſs of any thing we ſell to ſtrangers, the more money we get for it by how much the dearer it is, and the onely way to be rich, is to have plenty of that commoditie to vent, that is of greateſt value abroad; for what the price of any thing is amongſt our ſelves, whether dear or cheap it matters not; for as we pay, ſo we receive, and the countrey is nothing damnified by it, but the art is when we deal with ſtrangers, to ſell dear and to buy cheap; and this will increaſe our wealth.

Secondly, to vent ſtone-horſes, would be of far better profit then to vent geldings; for that a ſtone-horſe will give far more money, with the ſame charge to us, beſides the loſs of many horſes in gelding; and as for any prejudice to our breed, I conceive it no danger, if mares be not tranſported; for one horſe will cover twenty mares as well as twenty horſe may do: wherefore the increaſe of the horſes do nothing increaſe the breed; and in *France* where we ſhould beſt vent our horſes, they have always horſes enough, and of very great value and goodneſs, ſufficient for ſtallions; but they have neither mares nor conveniency to breed; for the countrey generally is all champion, corn-fields, and vineyards, and alſo ſo unſafe to venture any cattel of ſuch worth without ſtone walls to guard them, that ſcarce

all the ſummer, either horſe or cow is left abroad in the night, without a guard; beſides, if they could breed, the breed of it ſelf would prove degenerate, and ſoon be loſt, the countrey being naturally improper for it.

As for enabling our enemies to invade us, I conceive there is but little danger in that. At preſent we have amity with all thoſe countreys that deſire our horſes, and if at any time it ſhould be found fitting, to forbid the tranſportation of them, the prejudice that might happen by thoſe already tranſported, would ſoon be paſt; for of five hundred horſes that ſhould be tranſported, I verily beleeve in leſs then five years, there would ſcarce be five remaining.

Yet further, it doth not concern us to fear any ſuch power in our neighbours, we having no frontiers ſubject to ſudden incurſions; but our defence conſiſts chiefly in another ſtrength, which is our ſhips at ſea, which ſhould they be inſufficient to guard us, I doubt the enemies want of our horſes would be but ſmall ſecurity.

And as to the weakning of our ſelves, by ſending away our beſt horſes, whereby we may want for our own uſe, this I conceive is a groundleſs fear, and wholly miſtaken; for the good profit we ſhould make by a free vent of this commoditie, would encourage every ingenious

genious husband, to be well provided with what is ſo profitable; and every man would endeavour, not onely to increaſe his breed, but alſo to be curious in the goodneſs of them; ſo as it will rather be a double advantage to us, for as by the profit of thoſe we ſend abroad, we ſhall greatly increaſe our wealth, and far more by this means then by any other this countrey is capable of, out of its own ſtore; ſo we ſhall alſo have more choice, and plenty of this ſo ſerviceable and profitable a creature, both for uſe and pleaſure.

Concerning the return of money by exchange.

By the improvement of our trade as aforeſaid, both at home and abroad, whereby our exportations of commodities would exceed our importations, a very great and ſignal advantage would accrue not commonly taken notice of, and it is the profit we ſhould then make of our returning money, by bills of exchange, in which at this preſent we ſuffer an unvaluable loſs; for as it is ſaid before, our importations exceeding our exportations, our coin and treaſure muſt needs be waſted to even the balance, and conſequently more money drawn by exchange out of the countrey then is returned back again, whereby we are forced to give far more then the intrinſick value of the thing, to receive our moneys beyond the ſea, to ſupply our occaſions, the number being greater of thoſe that deſire to receive moneys abroad, then

The prejudice at preſent.

then of those that want it at home: for it is in this as in all other commodities, where the commodity is scarce, and the vent great, the purchase is always dear, and the forein Merchant finding our necessity, makes his advantage upon us incredibly to our loss; so that by this means it also happens, that our coin and bullion is transported, it being found more profitable then returns by exchange, for the reasons aforesaid, and our gold being of less value at home then it is abroad it hath been all conveyed away within these few years, and laws to prevent it shall always prove fruitless, when it is advantageous to do it, there being means sufficient to be found to effect it, by such as shall finde it profitable.

Our coin and bullion transported, and the reason.

Our gold transported, and the reason.

Wherefore to make laws to hinder the exportation of coin or bullion, I conceive altogether useless.

Laws to prevent it fruitless.

First, because it doth nothing prevent it where it is intended, and Secondly, in many cases it is most advantageous to do it. For in some countreys, some commodities are no way to be purchased at cheaper rates, then by money *in specie*, and if by the right ordering and disposing of our trade, our exportations did exceed our importations, in value, our coin and bullion would be dayly increased, there being no other means to even the balance of trade.

Concerning our money and coin.

And here it may not be altogether improper, to ſpeak ſomething concerning our money and coin, which is alſo a commodity as well as the reſt, in which theſe particulars are chiefly to be reſpected.

How chiefly to be conſidered in relation to other nations.

Firſt, to conſider and examine if the gold, to ſilver, in *England*, be of the like proportionable value; as the gold, to ſilver, in *France*, *Spain*, *Holland*, and other forein countreys.

Secondly to conſider the allay of gold, and ſilver, in *England*, to that of other countreys.

Thirdly, to conſider if the coin be of equal value, with the currant price of bullion, the charge of coining onely deducted.

Laſtly, how to order our coin, ſo as may be moſt honourable and profitable to the nation.

To the firſt, it doth appear that the gold in *England* doth not bear ſo good a value to ſilver as it doth in *France*, and other forein countreys; whereby all our gold is exported, and not our ſilver.

Secondly, the allay both of gold and ſilver in *England*, is finer then in other parts; which is rather a prejudice, then an advantage, it giving no more in forein countreys, then onely according to the weight by their ſtandard, without conſideration to the pureneſs,

Thirdly,

Thirdly, our coin is not equal to the true value of the ſilver, the coinage onely deducted; for by the imperfection of our mint the pieces of the ſame value are made ſo various, that ſome ſhillings will weigh fourteen pence, and ſome not above eight pence; which afterwards, being new weighed over, and culled by the goldſmiths, through whoſe hands, moſt of our bullion paſſeth, the heavie ones are picked out, and onely the light ones, and thoſe of under value, paſs for currant; which is a moſt eminent abuſe and wrong to the publick.

Wherefore laſtly, in prevention to theſe inconveniences, Firſt, our gold would be raiſed in proportion to ſilver, at leaſt equal with what it beats in *France*, and other countreys; and if it be deſired to increaſe, chiefly that *ſpecies*, a ſmall addition to the value will ſoon do it.

Secondly, the allay would be made the ſame, with that in other countreys of *Europe*, with whom we chiefly traffick.

The imperfection of our mint and abuſes here at home.

Thirdly, the abuſes happening by the imperfection of our mint, as light and falſe money in abundance; any ill-favoured and imperfect falſe ſtamp, being hardly to be diſtinguiſhed from the true, might eaſily be prevented, by a more exact and curious ſtamp, as may eaſily be made by the way of milling;

How to order our mint ſo as to prevent moſt of theſe abuſes and inconveniences.

whereby not onely the coin will be more beautifull, but also more equal in weight, and much more difficult to be clipped and counterfeited: especially if care be taken, to make the pieces large and thin; which will not onely shew more great and noble, but will many ways be more easie to be distinguished from false, as by the sound, stiffness, weight and colour: it being both so difficult, and chargeable to counterfeit money so formed, as few will hazard to undertake it.

Concerning our shipping and navigation.

Next, in order to our trade abroad, and safety at home, our shipping and navigation is to be considered; the increase and preservation whereof, is of great concernment to the Interest, safety, and well-being of this nation; for which the late act for trade, by the late pretended Parliament, did wisely provide, by ordering that no forreiner should bring any commoditie hither, but what was the growth of their own countrey; Whereby the *Hamburger* and *Flemming*, that run hackney all the world over, were a little stayed from coming hither crowding so thick, with all forein commodities as they were wont to do; whereby little, or no employment could be found for our own vessels; every thing being so plentifully brought hither by them, and at cheaper rates, then we our selves could fetch them.

But

But ſome perhaps may object, that ſure, it was an advantage to us, to be ſo cheap and plentifully ſtored with forein commodities, when we cannot be ſo cheaply furniſhed by our own ſhipping; for that we are at far greater charge, both in goodneſs of ſhipping, number of our men, and chargeable maintaining of them more then others. *Objected against it.*

I anſwer, it is true, that the ſame commoditie brought hither in any of our own veſſels, cannot be afforded ſo cheap as what might be brought by others; by reaſon indeed, that our ſhipping is much more chargeable, and better manned then any other; but this being rightly conſidered, it is rather an advantage then a prejudice to the publick; for, if commodities be thereby any thing the dearer, here at home, yet, we buy them as cheap abroad as any other, and all that others would have gained of us by the carriage, will now be earned of our own people; and whatever it coſts the dearer to the purchaſer here, is no prejudice to the publick, when our own nation receives the profit of it; eſpecially it being by the increaſe of that, in which conſiſts the greateſt honour and ſafety of the kingdom. Some might therefore think, that it might be of no leſs advantage, to forbid other nations to fetch any of our commodities, but to keep to our ſelves the bene- *The objections answered.*

fit of the portage of them by our own ſhipping.

I answer, ſhould we do this, we can expect no leſs, but that other nations would do the like towards us, whereby we ſhould be very much prejudiced.

Firſt, in that we ſhould then loſe the advantage which now we have, in bringing forein commodities home; and beſides, we ſhould perhaps, want the vent of our own commodities, which certainly will always ſell beſt, where moſt chapmen are found to buy them; ſo as by how much the cheaper they can tranſport them, ſo much the more they will be contented to give us here; moreover, the greateſt part of our manufactures, are of ſo great value, and ſo light of carriage, that a ſmall advantage in the price, or a little better vent, will ſoon compenſate the loſs of the portage of them; but indeed, if the *Hamburger* and *Flemming*, were prevented in the carriage of ſome of our more ſluggiſh commodities, as ſea-coal, lead, iron, allum, fiſh, or the like where the charge of the carriage many times is greater, then the whole value of the commoditie it ſelf, this might poſſibly increaſe ſomething our navigation, and yet hinder nothing the vent of thoſe commodities, which others cannot at all be without; and we ſhall not much need to

fear

fear their requiting us in the ſame kinde, for neither the *Hollander*, nor *Hamburgher*, have any ſuch commodities of their own, as we need care to fetch; who are the onely nation, that employ themſelves in this kinde of trade.

It may not alſo be improper, to reflect a little, upon the benefit this nation doth, or may receive by forein Plantations.

What chiefly to be conſidered in the increaſing and preſerving them.

I conceive, no forein Plantation ſhould be undertaken, or proſecuted, but in ſuch countreys that may increaſe the wealth and trade of this nation, either in furniſhing us, with what we are otherwiſe forced to purchaſe from ſtrangers, or elſe by increaſing ſuch commodities, as are vendible abroad; which may both increaſe our ſhipping, and profitably employ our people; but otherwiſe, it is always carefully to be avoided, eſpecially where the charge is greater then the profit, for we want not already a countrey ſufficient for double our people, were they rightly employed; and a Prince is more powerfull that hath his ſtrength and force united, then he that is weakly ſcattered in many places. But to deſcend to particulars, *viz.* what commodities are moſt deſireable and of greateſt advantage, and what countreys and climates are moſt proper to increaſe them, would be too tedious to treat of here.

Concerning Merchants associating themselves in companies.

There yet remains something to be said concerning Merchants, associating themselves in companies, the benefit or prejudice whereof hath been often controverted, but something difficult to determine.

Objections against it. The objections answered.

It is true, it is opposed by many, conceiving the free liberty of trade, would be much more advantageous in the general, because these companies, keeping the trade to themselves onely, will have what commodities are to be vented abroad at their own price, and at an under value; none having occasion to buy them but themselves; whereby the workmen are many times discouraged, and sometimes undone; and on the contrary, what commodities are brought home in exchange, they sell at what unreasonable rates they please, the whole commoditie remaining in their hands; whereby the people in general, are very much damnified, and the companies onely enriched; whereas, if the trade were free, our own commodities having more chapmen, would sell at better rates, and what is brought home in return, would be distributed at much cheaper prices amongst the people.

This is for the most part a truth, yet rightly considering the thing, it rather seems an advantage in the whole, then the least prejudice; for indeed, as they make their profit at home, so they make no less advantage abroad;

for the whole commoditie being in their hands, they will make the moſt that can be made of it; none having the like commodities to underſell them; and the like advantage they have again in what they buy; whereby in truth our own commodities are ſold the dearer to ſtrangers, and forein commodities bought much the cheaper; when both would happen contrary in a free trade, where each will underſell the other, to vent moſt, and alſo purchaſe at any rates, to prevent the reſt: beſides, many times the trade is wholly loſt, particulars being often too weak to maintain and undergo it, and there is nothing leſs of a commoditie vented by a company, then by ſingle perſons; for they will always furniſh, as much as the trade requires; the more they vent, the more being their profit. Whereby it may appear, that companies, both vent our own commodities to the beſt advantages and buy cheapeſt what we want from ſtrangers; and the prejudice that may happen by them to the workmen, or home chapmen, is fully recompenced by the clear profit they return to the publick; of which they are members, as well as others. But if their particular profits be thought too great, it may be ſomething moderated by a free liberty, that every one that pleaſe, may be admitted of the company, on fit and reaſonable terms.

In

What Intereſt muſt proper to be allowed for the uſe of money.

In the laſt place, concerning the uſe of money, which being the life and ſinews of trade, it hath been the opinion of ſome that the greater uſe were allowed for money, the more would be the profit of the publick, for that ſtrangers, finding a greater benefit to be made of their money here, then other where, would ſend it hither, whereby money would be much more plentifull amongſt us.

Indeed, I ſhould be of their opinion, if as ſoon as by this means, great ſums of money were tranſported hither, all their money ſhould be confiſcate to the publick, but if otherwiſe, ſure it cannot be denied, but the greater the uſe the more the profit to the uſurer, and loſs to the debter, ſo as in a few years, we ſhould finde our ſelves ſo little enriched thereby, that when the principal ſhould be again recalled, we ſhould finde but little money left, all our own being waſted in uſe: wherefore indeed the true benefit to the publick is, to ſet the uſe of money as low, or rather lower then in our neighbour countreys it is, for then they would make no profit out of us, by that means, but rather we on them. And it is the clear profit that we get of our own, that will make this nation rich, and not the great ſums we are indebted to others.

Many particulars more might ſeaſonably be

diſcourſed of, and this already touched, poſſibly by ſome other might be more exactly and amply treated on; but theſe being the moſt material things that I could call to memory, and moſt conducing (in my opinion) to the emprovement and proſperity of the nation, and conſequently to my preſent deſigne; I ſhall ſatisfie my ſelf with this eſſay; hoping the ſubject being ſo worthy, ſome other more skilfull and knowing pen, may be provoked to enlarge it further.

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p. 42 of this edition, is quoted with high praise by Sir Josiah Child in a Postcript to his New Discourse of Trade.